Publication Due In April

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JFK Book Lawsuit Settled

NEW YORK (AP) — Mrs. John F. Kennedy Monday ended her lawsuit against William Manchester and the publishers of his book, "The Death of a President," in a legally approved agreement.

State Supreme Court Justice Saul S. Streit signed a consent decree, clearing the way for publication of the book next April.

Representatives of all the parties to the dispute issued a joint statement which read:

"Mrs. John F. Kennedy, Harper & Row (publishers), and William Manchester have resolved the differences which led to legal action. Certain personal passages of concern to Mrs. Kennedy have been deleted or modified by mutual agreement of all the parties.

"Therefore Mrs. Kennedy has terminated her lawsuit. All parties agreed that the historical record has not been censored in any way."

The statement expressed regret "the questions in dispute could not have been settled earlier."

An informant said some of the points in the agreement were:

1. Letters to Mrs. Kennedy and her children, Caroline and John, from President Johnson will not be pubilshed without his consent.

"We don't object to the contents of the letters," the source said. "In fact, they are friendly and kindly. But we insist that the President should approve them before publication."

2. The tape recordings of Manchester's interviews with Mrs. Kennedy, totaling 10 hours, will be deposited under seal in the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library. The tapes have been in Manchester's possession.

3. Each book will contain a publisher's note which says:

"Harper & Row wishes to make it clear that neither Mrs. Kennedy nor Sen. Robert F. Kennedy has in any way approved or endorsed the material appearing in this book. The au-

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thor, William Manchester, and the publishers assume complete and sole responsibility."

A source close to the Kennedys said, "In fact, there is a lot in the book of which we don't approve."

The agreement includes the publishing of a hard-cover edition under the Harper & Row imprint and, no sooner than one year later, the publication of a soft-cover edition.

A source close to the erstwhile controversy said he had heard the estimated royalties to Manchester might amount to more than $2 million from sale of the book. He gave this breakdown of the estimated total:

Paperback editions, $1.5 million, $650,000 from Look magazine, $250,000 from the Book-of The-Month Club, $200,000 from rights to foreign publication, $150,000 from hard-cover sales. Manchester said in a prepared statement after the agreement was signed that he considered it "a resolution of misunderstandings."

Mrs. Kennedy, in announcing last December that she intended to bring suit to block publication of the book, called the manuscript "tasteless and distorted."

Manchester said this judgement has been based "upon isolated fragments which had been read to her by associates of the family."